



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

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STATE RELEASES LIGHTING TASK FORCE REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE DTSC Issues AB 1109 Task Force Report

SACRAMENTO – In response to the California Lighting Efficiency and Toxic Reduction Act of 2007 (AB 1109, Huffman), the California Department of Toxic Substances Control today released its Lighting Task Force Report to the Legislature recommending a framework for safer, convenient and cost effective ways to recycle fluorescent lamps.

"Millions of fluorescent bulbs are sold each year in California, the majority of which end up, along with the mercury they contain, buried in a landfill, said Leonard Robinson, DTSC's Federal Liaison and official lead of the Task Force. "To properly manage and recycle fluorescent lamps, consumers need to have convenient and cost effective opportunities available. " Robinson added. The work of this Task Force is intended to spur the establishment of a system that promotes recycling and reduces toxics in landfills.

"I would like to thank and commend the members of the AB 1109 Task Force for providing California with recommendations to solve our growing fluorescent lamp waste problem." said Maureen Gorsen, DTSC Director.

"California has long been a leader in energy efficiency, recycling, and most recently efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change," said Assembly Member Huffman, author of AB 1109. "We now have the opportunity to apply that same leadership in the effort to provide consumers with a convenient opportunity to recycling all hazardous lighting devices, as well as significantly reduce pollution in our environment. I applaud the AB 1109 Task Force's forward thinking and I look forward to working with members of this coalition as this important framework moves forward," Huffman concluded.

AB 1109, viewed as a national model, sets new energy efficiency standards for general purpose lighting, prohibits the manufacture and sale of lighting products containing mercury, and prohibits the sale of light bulbs in California, after January 1, 2010, that contain hazardous substances above levels prohibited by European Union Limits. Funding for the program would be a shared responsibility by the electric utilities and

lamp manufacturers and would create a system that promotes both energy efficiency and environmental stewardship.

The report also includes recommendations on:

- The most effective, cost efficient and convenient method to provide California consumers with proper collection and recycling of used fluorescent lamps.
- Methods to educate consumers about the proper management and opportunities for recycling fluorescent lamps.
- Labeling on light packaging that provides information regarding the proper handling and recycling of spent fluorescent lights.

The task force is made up of representatives from lamp manufacturers, lamp retailers, utilities, environmental groups, and local and state government.

To view the Task Force Report, go to:

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/upload/ab1109_final.pdf

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.